

Conservation/UWEX Education Committee
February 10, 2014
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Tom Rudolph, Greg Berard, Jim Intrepidi, Bob Martini and Bob Mott. Absent: Clint Zimbeck.

Others present: Tracy Beckman and Cheryl Boyd (NWS), Michele Sadauskas, Lynn Feldman, Tim Brown, Erica Brewster, Jonathan Anderson (media) and Kerri Ison.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rudolph at 1:30 p.m. noting the meeting has been properly posted and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approve agenda: Motion by Martini/Mott to approve the agenda for today with the order of items at the discretion of the Chair. All ayes; motion carried.

Approve minutes: Motion by Martini/Intrepidi to approve the minutes of 1/13/14 as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Dates of future meetings:

3/17/13	1:30 p.m.	Extension meeting room
4/7/13	9:00 a.m.	Extension meeting room

Consent agenda items: Hansen requested additional travel to Vilas County on 2/18/14 to attend the WHIP Annual Meeting. Motion by Martini/Mott to approve the consent agenda items as amended. All ayes; motion carried.

Oneida County Fair update:

- Brewster reviewed the updated K&M Amusement contract which was approved by Administration Committee earlier today. Motion by Berard/Mott to approve the carnival contract as presented. All ayes; motion carried.
- Brewster requested the Agreement with City of Rhinelander regarding the Oneida County Fair be tabled until next meeting.
- Brewster reported Gehrig and Swisher have agreed to split the Fair Coordinator position. Two contracts with identical terms have been signed and duties have been divided appropriately. The contracts have been signed by County Board Chair.

Monthly staff report/Northwoods Saves Resolution-Northwoods Saves Weeks: Brewster introduced Tracy Beckman and Cheryl Boyd, Northwoods Saves. Roundtable introductions were held. Boyd, Program Coordinator and Financial Coach, provided an overview of Northwoods Saves program goals, services offered and plans future educational workshops. Beckman, Funding and Volunteer Coordinator discussed America Saves week (2/24-3/1/14) and how promoting savings can benefit the community, organizations, financial institutions and citizens. She noted Northwoods Saves is funded by local financial institutions, local organizations and the Consumer Federation of America. Discussion followed. Motion by Martini/Mott to approve the resolution regarding America Saves week and forward to County Board for their consideration at the February meeting pending approval from Corporation Counsel. All ayes; motion carried. The Committee requested handouts be attached. Discussion followed.

Agency reports:

- Lake Districts: Intrepidi noted Lake Nokomis received \$18,000 in grant funding to remove

Eurasian water milfoil. Rudolph reported Horsehead Lake District is still looking for a site to access lake for weed harvesting but there may be an option to access using DNR property.

- FSA: Brewster spoke with Zimbeck earlier today -- there isn't anything new to report from FSA.
- LWCB: Rudolph reported Dave Solin (Langlade County) has been elected to the LWCB. Discussion followed regarding implementing phosphorus standards.
- WLWCA: Rudolph noted WLWCA is lobbying against a bill to postpone implementation of phosphorus standards. Rudolph encouraged committee members to attend the WLWCA Annual meeting on 3/10-12/14 in Appleton. Rudolph attended NACD Annual meeting in Anaheim, CA. He drafted a policy regarding invasive species (approved at the regional meeting) which was adopted as amended at the national meeting.
- RC&D: Rudolph reported the State Association meeting was held on 1/28/14 in Stevens Point. Issues discussed included promotion of rotational grazing versus planting and the possibility of combining the local council with the Upper Peninsula as several councils are experiencing financial issues. Brenda Wigglesworth has been hired as office manager (30 hours/week) for the local RC&D office and will train with Baker for the remainder of the month. Mott thanked the Committee for their support of the Pelican Lake Association grant application to RC&D. The first reading of the buffer zone proposal has taken place with the next reading scheduled for April. Hansen provided an update on the LWCD grant proposal submitted to RC&D noting an amendment will be submitted for the next Board of Directors meeting.
- WACEC: Brewster reminded the Committee of the meeting scheduled for 2/21/14 in Wausau. Mott plans to attend.

Service award: Rudolph presented Ison with a certificate of recognition for 15 years of service. Committee thanked Ison for her service to Oneida County.

Berard was excused at 2:50 p.m.

Office space update:

- Hansen met with Buildings and Grounds staff regarding former LWCD space at the Courthouse. The walls and floors have been painted/waxed in Hansen's office but cubicle walls still need to be reconfigured and workstations need to be relocated. There is no specific date for moving at this time, but expect it to happen by beginning of March.
- Hansen and Brewster met last week regarding Ison's schedule once LWCD is moved back to the Courthouse. It was agreed Ison will report to LWCD on Monday and Friday mornings and all day Wednesday, but this can be adjusted if necessary. Both expressed concern regarding mileage reimbursement for Ison to travel from the Courthouse to UWEX on the split days. Discussion followed. Committee supported reimbursement of mileage for Ison.
- Lengthy discussion was held regarding the WPS building option, better working environment for employees, public accessibility/visibility and parking needs. Committee members discussed constituents' comments and moving forward.
- Brewster noted the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has assigned two case managers. An industrial hygienist and medical officer interviewed agents to gather background information, they have spoken with Brauer, requested layouts and are gathering information on past test results to compile a report regarding air quality issues. It is hoped to have additional information by the end of the week. Brewster reiterated that NIOSH is not an enforcement agency but can offer suggestions to correct issues. It was noted government does not fall under OSHA but there is a state agency that handles enforcement through Workforce Development. Brewster hopes to have more information at the March meeting. Committee members viewed the storage room and back room spaces.

Committee comments on Oneida County Recreation Plan: Martini felt an economic impact and

needs assessment should be included in the plan. In addition, the plan discusses how lakes and rivers are important for recreation but does not include a plan to protect the base that supports our economy. He also discussed advantages of keeping the land south of the Airport for recreational purposes. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the plan and the proposed time frame for approval. The public comment meeting for the Outdoor Recreation Plan will be held 2/11/14 at 6:30 p.m. in the County Board Room. Motion by Rudolph/Mott authorizing Martini and Brown to present the CUW Committee's comments regarding the Oneida County Outdoor Recreation Plan as discussed. All ayes; motion carried.

AIS Grants: Sadauskas noted the WEEB grant (\$3,000-\$4,000) is due 2/14/14 with awards being made in May. Sadauskas has also submitted the final report for the 2012 WEEB grant (\$2,400) and the 2012 DNR grant (\$45,000).

DATCP Farmland Preservation Plan (FFP) requirement/grant: Hansen submitted a grant application in the amount of \$17,948 to cover some costs for the development of the FFP. Oneida County has been working from a plan that was developed in 1983. The new Oneida County plan is due by the end of 2014; however, a one-year extension has been requested. North Central Regional Planning Commission will be assisting with the development of the FFP. Discussion followed.

County Cost-Share program update/approval: Hansen reported the final reimbursement for 2012 will be submitted by the end of the week. A landowner signed a contract (\$15,000) in 2012 but did not follow through with the project. These unspent funds will impact future funding. The Committee suggested contacting Corporation Counsel regarding the issue and to also inform DATCP of the situation. Hansen will be drafting a letter to the landowner. The Committee agreed that this situation supports the fee schedule proposed earlier.

Public comment/communications: Rudolph encouraged all Committee members to attend the Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest scheduled for 2/14/14 at 5 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Items for next agenda: Staff evaluation-closed session, office space update/air quality issues, line item transfers, Oneida County Recreation Plan, WHIP Roadside survey management plan, FFP.

Adjournment: Motion by Mott/Intrepidi to adjourn at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kerri Ison, Recording Secretary

Bob Martini, Vice Chair